

SPRING FOOTBALL: 10 THINGS TO WATCH

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Mark Turgeon

THE COACH,
HUSBAND
AND FATHER
OF THREE

ALSO INSIDE:

Dude Perfect Panda
Aggie Basketball
Coach Jo Evans
Big 12 Baseball
Macie Morrow
Caroline Gunn
2011 Recruits
John Stilson

AGGIE WOMEN ARE
BIG 12 CHAMPS >>



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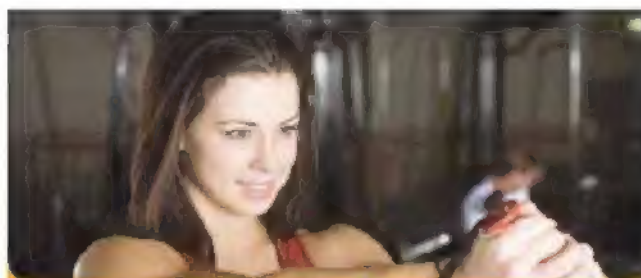
FIND THE 01

On the Cover: Head men's basketball coach Mark Turgeon shows his appreciation to the 12th Man. Photo by Jason McConnell '01. Inset photo by Glen Johnson, Texas A&M Athletics.

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Do you recognize the above photo from campus? Send an e-mail to photo@aggiemag.com and let us know where it was taken. Be the first to get it right and we'll send you a **free gift**. Look for the answer in the next issue of *AI*. The photo in the January/February 2010 issue was of the Animal Industries building.



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publisher'snote

Howdy!

What an unbelievable season of Texas A&M basketball. It still amazes me how far both programs have come over the past few years.

I'm writing this letter just hours after the women lost a heart-breaker to Gonzaga in the second round of the NCAA tournament. Fresh off a Big 12 tournament championship, Gary Blair's squad looked capable of making a run for the program's first Final Four. However, Gonzaga pulled off a hard-fought victory. I still don't understand how it's fair that they – a No. 7 seed – got to basically play a home game against the second seeded Aggs.

Meanwhile, I'm still trying to cope with the men's disheartening loss in overtime to Purdue. The Aggs were so close to a Sweet 16 matchup against Duke in Houston that they could probably taste it. I know I could. Despite the adversity they faced, Mark Turgeon's team continually exceeded expectations all season long. That was certainly enough reason to believe they would get by Purdue and set up a marquee matchup against the Blue Devils in front of a likely record number of Aggies. Without a doubt this loss hurts deeply, but it's difficult to be disappointed in what these guys accomplished. Mostly, I'm just sad that their season had to end like that – especially the seniors.

Speaking of seniors, Derrick Roland recently decided to seek a medical hardship so that he could return next season. He doesn't automatically qualify under the current rules – he played a few too many games – but I think this is a perfect opportunity for the NCAA to make a statement that if a student-athlete does all the right things – both in sports and in the classroom – then they deserve to be rewarded. Who knows what will happen, but I know if anyone deserves it, D-Ro does.

Finally, I'm disappointed that basketball season is over, but that means it's time to reveal AJ's annual Big 12 Awards. We also thought it would be fun to name our A&M All-Decade team.

Gig'em Ags!

Brian '01

AI AWARDS

PLAYER OF THE YEAR

G Donald Sloan, Texas A&M

BEST DEFENDER

F Cole Aldrich, Kansas

FRESHMAN OF THE YEAR

G Tommy Mason-Griffin, Oklahoma

MOST IMPROVED

F Bryan Davis, Texas A&M

COACH OF THE YEAR

Mark Turgeon, Texas A&M

**repeat selection from last season*

ALL-BIG 12 TEAM

G Tweety Carter, Baylor
G Sherron Collins, Kansas*
G Donald Sloan, Texas A&M
G/F James Anderson, Okla. State*
F Craig Brackins, Iowa State

A&M ALL-DECADE TEAM

G Acie Law, IV
G Demonique Kirk
G/F Bernard King
G/F Antoine Wright
F Joseph Jones

P.S. You can order back issues of *Aggieland Illustrated* online at www.aggielandillustrated.com/archive.html

Aggieland

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A photograph of a basketball game. In the foreground, a player in a white jersey with maroon trim is in motion. Behind him, another player in a white jersey is also visible. The background is filled with a large crowd of spectators, many wearing white t-shirts. A basketball hoop and backboard are visible in the upper left. A maroon structure with "TEXAS A&M" written vertically is in the center. A "TACO BELL" logo is visible in the lower right.

snapshot

TEXAS
A&M

outstretched

Sophomore Dash Harris tries to disrupt a three-point attempt by Oklahoma State's James Anderson. The Aggies never trailed against the Cowboys on senior night, winning 76-61. Harris contributed 8 points with 6 assists and tied his career-high with 8 rebounds.

Photo by Jason McConnell '01.





going, going, gone

Junior Caleb Shofner homers over the right field wall – his team-best fifth of the year – in the second game against Washington State. Trailing 7-0 to the Cougars in the sixth inning, A&M mounted a furious comeback attempt led by Shofner's 3-run blast. The Ags came up a little short though, losing 7-5. Photo by Jason McConnell '01.





snapshot

most. wins. ever.

Just one year after Josh Carter set the record for career victories in an Aggie uniform, seniors Donald Sloan, Derrick Roland and Bryan Davis broke it, earning their 99th win over Nebraska in the Big 12 tournament. The winningest class in school history finished with a 100-38 record.

Photo by Jason McConnell '01.

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getting offensive

BY JEREMY KSONLA C4

With the 2010 class signed, sealed and delivered, the speculation surrounding the class of '11 is officially underway. In his first three signing classes as Texas A&M's head coach, Mike Sherman pushed the 25 scholarship limit to the max, signing at least that many each year. As a result, the 2011 class will probably be limited by scholarship numbers and is likely to cap out at 18-20 depending on any unforeseen attrition.

Here, we take a closer look at the Aggies' top prospects on the offensive side of the ball with the help of Billy Liucci's *Maroon & White Report* at texags.com. Check back in the May/June issue of *AI* for the defensive prospects.

QB (0-1)

TARGETS.

QB J.W. Walsh (Denton Guyer)
Committed to Oklahoma St

QB David Ash (Belton)
Committed to Texas

QB Dexter Foreman (Manvel)

QB Johnny Manziel (Kerrville Tivy)

QB Ryan Polite (DeSoto)

QB Brett Hundley (Chandler, Arizona)



KEEP AN EYE ON: Kerrville Tivy's Johnny Manziel. While probably not a QB at the next level, this jack-of-all-trades athlete has the attention of college scouts across the region.

PROGNOSIS. After signing three prospects in the class of 2010, the Aggies will probably be selective in their quest for a signal caller in 2011. Arizona's Brett Hundley looks like to be the top prospect early on, but with offers from all over the country, he's likely headed elsewhere. Still, a senior campaign to remember from Jerrod Johnson would help the Ags in the eyes of recruits all across the country, so nothing's out of the question.

RB (1-2)

TARGETS.

RB Malcolm Brown (Cibola Steele)

RB Aaron Green (San Antonio Madison)

RB Herschel Sims (Abilene)

RB Brandon Williams (Brookshire Royal)
Committed to Baylor

RB Kenny Williams (Pflugerville Henderson)

RB LeFrederick Ford (Kirbyville)

RB KC Nlemechi (Katy Cinco Ranch)

RB Daniel Lasco (The Woodlands)



KEEP AN EYE ON: Kirbyville's LeFrederick Ford. The 6-0, 200 pound bruise appears to be pretty high on the A&M coaching staff's big board. If the Ags push for an early commit here, they'll probably get it.

PROGNOSIS: Like QB, the Aggies signed a trio of RBs in 2011. As such, look for the A&M coaching staff to be particular here. If they can land Ford in the early going, Sherman and staff will likely either make a run at one of the big boys (Malcolm Brown, Brandon Williams, Aaron Green) or call it quits all together and save the scholarship for a position of need.

WR/TE (3-4)

TARGETS

WR Trey Meteyor (Whitehouse)

Committed to Oklahoma

WR Desmond Roland (Lake Highlands)

WR Derek Edwards (Brenham)

WR Marquis Jackson (Arlington Heights)

WR Cameron White (DeSoto)

WR Johnny Haynes (Irving MacArthur)

■ **WR Jonathan Lee** (Allen)

TE Jace Amaro (San Antonio MacArthur)

TE Max Stevenson (Klein Oak)

KEEP AN EYE ON: Allen's Jonathan Lee. The Aggies have dipped into Allen several times since Mike Sherman's arrival, picking up standouts such as WR Uzoma "EZ" Nwachukwu, DB Steven Terrell and incoming freshman and highly touted OT Cedric Ogbuehi. Don't be surprised to see Lee as one of A&M's earliest commitments in this class if he becomes a priority.

PROGNOSIS: The Ags have replenished the pipeline at WR since Sherman's arrival, so the coaching staff can do some cherry picking this time around if they so choose. As always, speed will be the determining factor when it comes to picking up an Aggie offer, so WRs such as Lee, Marquis Jackson and Cameron White should be ones to watch. The Ags also have a need for a TE or two in this class, and Amaro appears to be the top target. With Texas Tech ties, it will probably be difficult to keep the San Antonio standout away from Lubbock.

OL (3-4)

TARGETS

OL Sedrick Flowers (Gaiena Park North Shore)

Committed to Texas

OL Garrett Greenleaf (Klein Collins)

Committed to Texas

OL Josh Cochran (Haltom City)

Committed to Texas

OL Nathan Gutekunst (Humble Atascocita)

OL Spencer Drango (Cedar Park)

■ **OL Joseph Cheek** (Seguin)

Committed to Texas A&M

OL Hunter Nealy (San Antonio Reagan)

OL Shayvion Hatten (Danglefield)

Committed to TCU

KEEP AN EYE ON: Atascocita's Nathan Gutekunst. The 6-6, 290-pound OT is one of the state's best, and following a February unofficial visit to College Station, it appears that the Aggies are in the lead for his services. In fact, don't be surprised to see him listed as a commitment by the time the next issue of AI rolls around.

PROGNOSIS: After an outstanding OL haul in 2010, anything in 2011 will be considered icing on the cake. Cheek was the first member of this year's class and happens to be an Aggie legacy. Make no mistake, however, as the Aggie coaches are absolutely ecstatic about Cheek's upside. If Gutekunst joins Cheek as early A&M commitments, Sherman will probably have in a guard prospect or two to round out the OL class. **AI**

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scoreboard men's basketball



Not much more can be said about the 2009-10 men's basketball team. With all the trials and tribulations they endured, this group proved that they could take anything thrown at them and persevere. At the beginning of the season, the Ags were expected to finish in the middle of the conference standings. When D-Io went down, many thought they'd be lucky to make the NCAA tournament at all. Somebody finally got to tell these guys that they were supposed to struggle. Led by seniors Donald Sloan and Bryan Davis, the team continued to win hard-fought game after hard-fought game. When it was all said and done, the Aggies finished tied for 2nd in the Big 12 and 2 points away from the Sweet 16.





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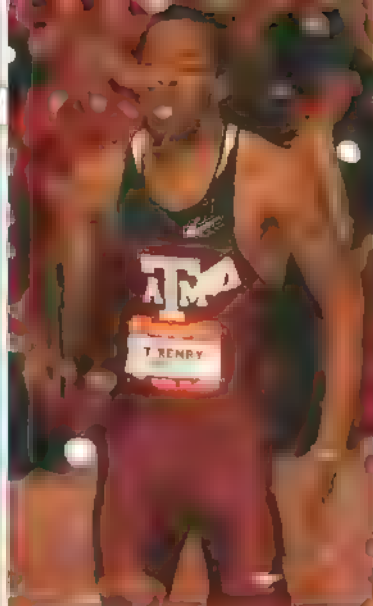
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Gary Blair's impressive progress continued to unfold and play after head coach Keith Smith. The Aggie's strong performance during the brutal conference schedule, but showed what they were capable of by winning the Big 12 tournament championship for the second time in three years. Their strong finish earned the Aggie a No. 2 seed in the NCAA tournament. Blair got his wish and avoided being placed in the same region as No. 1 overall Connecticut, but he didn't count on having to face a tough Gonzaga team in the second round. The Bulldogs had only lost four games all year, the last coming at the hands of the Aggie in mid-December. The defeat they claimed as the turning point of their season. The second meeting was a back and forth battle all the way to the end. Unfortunately, the Aggie were a point short when the final buzzer sounded.





(softball) The Aggies are 20-0 and rising with a game-winning victory when Big 12 play begins at night. (baseball) The Aggies claimed a fourth consecutive Big 12 indoor championship, while the men placed third for the second straight year. At the NCAA indoor championships, the men finished second, while the women placed fifth. (equestrian) The third-seeded Aggie riders finished with a 10-4 record — the program's third 10-win season in four years — and won the Big 12 championships and national championships still on the horizon. (tennis) The 21st-ranked Aggie men's team was 12 of their last 14 for an overall record of 15-4. (swim) The men are No. 18 in the nation and continue to climb the rankings as Big 12 play begins, while the women have already begun conference play and are 2-0.





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Twelve questions for
the two-time defending
national champion

BY AJ STAFF



Started Riding

I started when I was little. My primary teacher, Mrs. [Name], had a horse and she let me ride. I was the only girl in the class who rode. We had a small stable and she let me ride on a pony named [Name]. I was the only girl in the class who rode. We had a small stable and she let me ride on a pony named [Name].

From Indiana to A&M

My family moved to Texas when I was in high school. I was a member of the [Name] team and I was a member of the [Name] team. I was a member of the [Name] team and I was a member of the [Name] team. I was a member of the [Name] team and I was a member of the [Name] team.

Keys to Good Horsemanship

I think the most important thing is to be patient. You have to be patient with the horse and with yourself. You have to be patient with the horse and with yourself. You have to be patient with the horse and with yourself. You have to be patient with the horse and with yourself.

Messing Up In Competition

When I was in high school, I was a member of the [Name] team. I was a member of the [Name] team and I was a member of the [Name] team. I was a member of the [Name] team and I was a member of the [Name] team. I was a member of the [Name] team and I was a member of the [Name] team.

Challenges of Riding an Unknown Horse

It's just to go with the flow. You have to be able to adapt to the horse and to the situation. You have to be able to adapt to the horse and to the situation. You have to be able to adapt to the horse and to the situation. You have to be able to adapt to the horse and to the situation.

Best Places to Go Ride

We like to go to [Name] and [Name]. We like to go to [Name] and [Name]. We like to go to [Name] and [Name]. We like to go to [Name] and [Name]. We like to go to [Name] and [Name].



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My favorite thing about the sport is the camaraderie and the sense of community.

Time Spent Riding

I spend a lot of time riding. It varies, but I enjoy the time I spend with my horse. I have a lot of friends who ride with me, and we have a lot of fun. I have a lot of friends who ride with me, and we have a lot of fun.

Most Memorable Moments

One of the most memorable moments was when I won the A&M championship. It was a really big deal for me, and I was really proud. I was really proud of my horse and myself. I was really proud of my horse and myself.

Perfect Ending

My perfect ending would be to win the A&M championship. I would love to win the A&M championship. I would love to win the A&M championship. I would love to win the A&M championship. I would love to win the A&M championship.

Passing the Torch

Definitely feel like I'm passing the torch to the next generation. I feel like I'm passing the torch to the next generation. I feel like I'm passing the torch to the next generation. I feel like I'm passing the torch to the next generation.

Riding After A&M

After A&M, I like to ride with my friends and family. I like to ride with my friends and family. I like to ride with my friends and family. I like to ride with my friends and family.

Favorite Tradition

There are a lot of great traditions, but the A&M tradition is my favorite. I love the A&M tradition. I love the A&M tradition. I love the A&M tradition.

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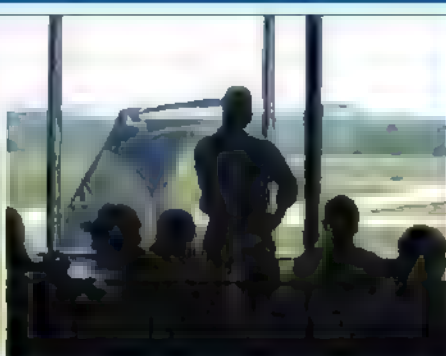
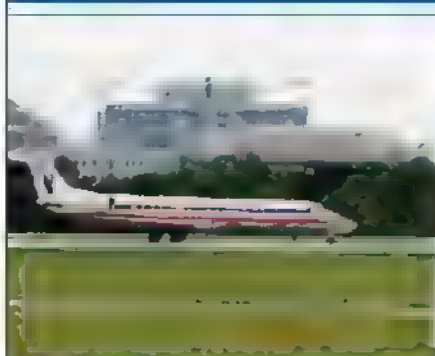
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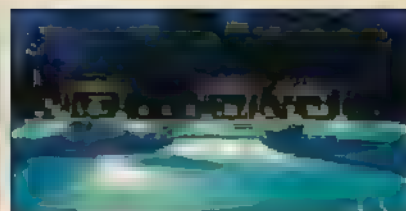


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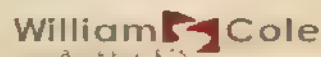


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Mark Turgeon

Nearly four years after moving to Aggieland, the Turgeon family is exactly where they want to be

BY JASON MCCONNELL '01

Most people, at certain points in their lives, make a tough decision to move to a new town for new opportunities. In late spring of 2007, Mark Turgeon was faced with one of those decisions.

For the previous seven years, Turgeon was the head basketball coach at Wichita State University, where he turned the Shocker program into one of the Missouri Valley Conference's best. The third winningest coach in school history, Turgeon led the 2005-2006 Shocker team

to the conference championship and the NCAA Sweet 16, garnering MVC Coach of the Year honors along the way.

When Turgeon took the job in Wichita, they were averaging about 5,000 fans – including about 50 students – per game. By 2007, there were 1,000 families on the waiting list wanting basketball tickets.

"We didn't have football," Turgeon said, "so we were the sport."

Being the only sport in town, it meant a lot of pressure on the basketball coach.



THE TURGEON FAMILY
MARK, ANN, WILL, ELLA, LEO RUSSO AND



ON MARCH MADNESS

"The greatest time of the year for me is when February and March roll around. I absolutely love that time of year. I think I coach better. I think our teams play better. One of these years we are going to make a run at it and get it done."

MARK TURGEON

"By the end of March Madness, I'm going a little mad."

ANN TURGEON

"When we would lose a game, I felt like I was letting the whole town down," he admits. "It was bigger than just Wichita State. It weighed on me because I wanted to build it up. We could lose two in a row and the next game there would be standing room only. I would be shaking my head thinking these people are incredible. It would make me want to work harder."

But with the good came the bad.

"I couldn't go grocery shopping. Three hundred, sixty-five days a year you are talking about basketball."

A NEW HOME

One thing that Ann, Mark's wife of 16 years, wanted was a new home.

After buying their home in Wichita within a couple of days of taking the job, Turgeon pushed off buying a new home every year.

"I won every argument about it for seven years," he recalls.

But the day they were going to put some money down on some land, Mark answered the call to become Texas A&M's 20th head basketball coach.

For their first year in Aggieland the Turgeons rented a house in Traditions.

"It was the best case scenario," Ann said. "We got to know all the unbelievably good people in Traditions while our

new home was being built."

However, not everyone was sold on the idea of moving to Texas. The Turgeon's eight-year old son, Will, was not keen on leaving his friends in Kansas.

"It is a tough lesson," Ann said to Will at the time, "but a great lesson of life is to realize that you can move and be blessed to have friends back in Kansas, and meet a whole new great group of friends in Texas."

Will also missed one of his favorite spots in Wichita.

"For the first couple months it would be, 'There is no Red Robin,'" Ann recalls. "And I would say, 'Back in Wichita, there is no Aggie football.'"

Turgeon believes that it takes at least two years to feel comfortable after moving.

"I was from Kansas, moved to Wichita, and it took me two years to settle in," he said. "I feel so at home now. Even when we moved into our new offices last year—even though I knew I was the first coach to move into that office—it kind of felt strange because I wasn't in at the ground level. Now I walk into it and I feel like, 'This is my building. What do I want to do with it.'"

A year after moving to Aggieland, the Turgeon's have settled in to their home



in Pebble Creek that Ann helped design. A basketball court littered in toys accents a perfectly manicured backyard overlooking the golf course.



"It is a lot of work, but it has turned out well," Turgeon admits. "I ran a yard service when I was a kid. I told myself if I ever made enough money, I would never mow my yard again. I mowed it the first couple of years when I was in Wichita, but not anymore."

Ann and the kids – Will, Ella and Leo – have settled into their church and have become very active in the community.

"The joy of kids is that you are instantly infiltrated into their friends and church, so we felt at home right away," Ann said. "Once we moved into our house it was even better, because now we are around

a ton of kids who they go to school with and good families. This is a great place to raise kids."

A CULTURE CHANGE

A week or two after finishing his first season in Aggieland – a season that was two points away from a trip to the Sweet 16 – the Turgeon family went bowling. When they walked out of the crowded bowling alley, Ann turned to Mark and said, "You know, I don't think one person in there knew who you were."

Moving from basketball-based Kansas to football-based Texas would take some adjusting.

"We had Kansas at home my first year and there are only 8,000 people here," he recalls. "I knew how good Kansas was and that place should have been packed. For what our program had done the last four years, there should be a little more interest."

It can even be frustrating for a coach with a different mindset.

"We played a game in early January last year against North Dakota – granted, a Division II team, and we were 13-1," he recalls. "Announced crowd was 8,000 but there weren't 2,000 people in the stands. I was off the whole game. That was the one night I had a little pity party for myself."

"There are a lot of things more important than winning or losing. But let's go out and win anyway."

MARK TURGEON

Turgeon doesn't think he can change years of basketball culture in Texas, but he would like to build on the current culture in Aggieland.

"It is a lot less pressure on me if A&M is a football school," he admits. "As long as I keep taking care of my program and do everything we can to be a top program, that is all I ask."

However, he knows that means investing his time in getting more students and fans to Reed Arena. Before speaking to a group of students in the early fall, one of Turgeon's assistants asked him why he was speaking to the group and not Coach Sherman.

"Sherman doesn't have to do that," Mark replied. "There will be 30,000 students at his first game whether he speaks to them or not. We have to do it right now."

And it is working. The Aggies played in front of four sellout crowds this year, including breaking attendance records three times throughout the season. Turgeon remembers the moment when he knew basketball was getting attention in Aggieland.

"We lost to Oklahoma at home last year, and I was driving home," he recalls. "I was really down because I just felt like we didn't play well early in that game. We should have won that game. But when I got home, I told Ann, 'We can do it here.' Our crowd that day was phenomenal. There is a lot of spirit and there is a lot of pride. Aggies have that. I think that Reed Arena can be really special on game day."

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Any coach coming to Texas A&M after



Gillispie has trained teams with his players, while Ann continues to take their support of the program to higher levels.



A BETTER COACH

"I helped coach Will's first basketball team in Wichita when he was going into the first grade. That was fun. I just drilled them and drilled them. And then of course I had to get on him and he would get upset. But we got better. After one of the games, I asked Will what he thought about the head coach. He replied, 'He is a much better coach than you are, dad.'"

—ANN TURGEON

Billy Gillispie's departure had some big shoes to fill.

"It is not easy to follow a guy that was worshiped," Turgeon admits. "And it is really hard to sustain winning. I am really proud of what we have done. I am proud of how we have recruited. I am proud of what lies ahead."

In basketball, Turgeon has always set lofty goals for himself. He wanted to go to a Final Four as a player. He did. He wanted to take Wichita State to the Sweet 16. He did. And he has big goals for Texas A&M basketball.

"My ultimate vision is to be playing for league championships every year," he said. "If you are doing that, then you are one of the top teams in the country."

"That is one of the things that I think was so enticing about Texas A&M," Ann adds. "You had an opportunity to make a run every year if you play well and finish at the top in the Big 12. You have as good a chance as anybody when that field of 64 comes out."

And while the last few seasons in Ag-

gieland have been good, Turgeon would like to do better.

"I don't like to be mediocre," he admits. "I think that you can look at certain college basketball programs – the great ones with a lot of tradition – and it is hard to get in that mix. Then you have the ones that are above mediocre but without all the tradition. And then you have teams that are pretty good and win 18-23 games per year. I don't want to be one of those teams. I want my program to be one of those other programs."

Building a program the right way takes time and good character kids.

"It is all vision," he said. "Do I have a blueprint? No. I have done it long enough. I do it by feel. I believe in my staff. I think we develop players. I think you will see guys get better."

"I think that is one of his strongest points," Ann adds. "When he coaches a player for four years, when they walk away, graduated, he has made them a better person and a better basketball player. He has made them ready for life – whether it is continuing in basketball or getting a regular job. Graduation, school, how to treat people, character, respect, loyalty... You learn those things from being on his team. I think that is what makes him and Texas A&M work well together."

FAMILY

At home, Ann strives to create a sanctuary for her husband.

"When he comes home from work," she said, "it's not about anything that happened at Reed Arena or basketball. It is about these three kids and how much they adore him."

And often, she carries his stress.

"She gets too into it. She worries too much about wins and losses."

Occasionally, the stress and pressure get to him as well.

"At some point during the year, I feel like, 'I am a bad husband. I am a bad dad. I am a bad coach,'" Turgeon admits. "Because I can't do all three of them the way I want to do them. The one that upsets me the most is being a bad dad."

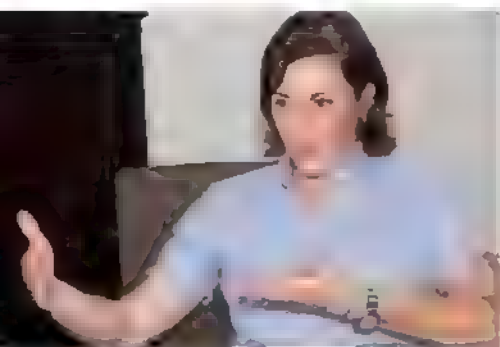
Being a basketball coach, recruiting is a necessary evil that takes Turgeon away from his family.

"I think it is harder on me than it is on the kids," he admits. "They are so used to it. I have always been on the road for as long as they remember. I think if I would



have raised them to age 12 and then became a recruiter, then it would be hard."

On the road, Turgeon keeps in contact by calling and checking up on Ann and the kids. Sometimes she gets so used to it that she forgets to let him talk to the



kids. Both Will and Emma have been on recruiting trips with their dad.

"The hardest part with recruiting for me is that you never get away from it," Ann admits. "It is a part of his job."

Even on family vacations to escape the Texas summer, Turgeon is still working.

"I take pictures of him to make fun of him because he is off in the corner talking on the phone and we are on the beach," Ann admits.

But being the family of a head basketball coach does offer fun and opportuni-

ties. During the NCAA and preseason tournaments, Ann, their kids, and other coaches' families get the chance to travel and sightsee.

"Those are very different kind of memories you are creating with your kids," Ann said. "They are opportunities as well as time together."

Both Ann and Mark come from good families, something they say is important to passing on to their children. The Turgeons take parenting very seriously, and work hard to instill good values in their children.

"I think as parents, our job is to teach them respect, how the world works and a good work ethic," Turgeon said. "If we do our job right, then 20 years from now, they are going to be hopefully living a good life because they have learned how to do it."

And just like in basketball, Turgeon has a vision for their future.

"What I want is for them to all be unbelievably happy 20 years from now," he said. "Unbelievably happy. I can just think of how lucky and fortunate and good my life has been. Whether it has been a college basketball player at Kansas, meeting Ann, getting married, having kids, and then professionally – I am really happy with that. I am really proud of that. I just

"Coaching is easy compared to raising kids."

MARK TURGEON

want them to be the same way."

Looking back on his time in Aggieland, Turgeon reflects on the changes in his life.

"It's been different but it's been good," he said. "I know it sounds crazy, but I feel much less pressure here than I did at Wichita State. I still feel pressure. I am nervous every game. It is my life and I want to be the best."

"But, if we lost a game and I was walking off the court, I just felt like everybody was just staring right at me," he adds. "I felt I had the weight of the town on my shoulders."

He grins.

"Not that they don't care here. I know. When we lose, I get the emails." ■

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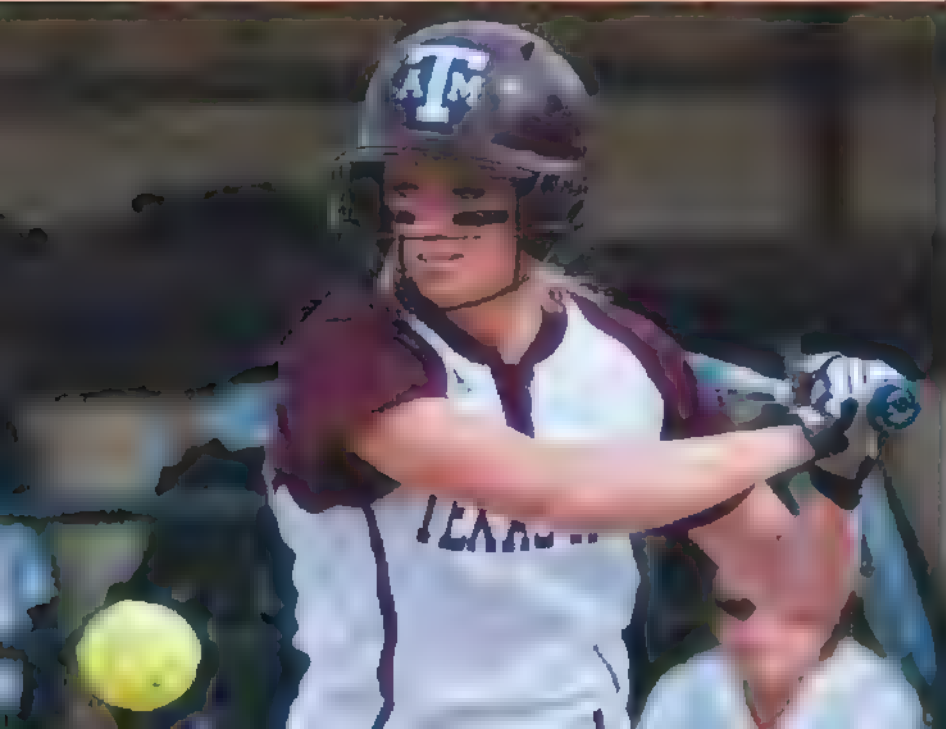
A portrait of Macie Morrow, a young woman with long blonde hair, wearing a maroon Texas Tech University t-shirt and a baseball glove. The t-shirt has 'TEXAS TECH' printed on it. The glove has 'TPS' on it. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

macie MORROW

Twelve questions for the
Aggies' senior shortstop
BY AL STAFF

TEXAS
TECH

TPS



"Macie showed such [great leadership] after that injury. She wanted to get back on the field. It really meant a lot to our team because we struggled without her."

—JASON MCCONNELL, TEAM MANAGER



Start Playing Softball

I started playing softball in high school. I was a pitcher, but I loved playing. It was a great experience.

Why A&M

I chose Texas A&M because of the great atmosphere and the support from the fans. It's a great place to be a student-athlete.

Most Memorable Moments

One of the most memorable moments was when I pitched a no-hitter. It was a great feeling and a big accomplishment.

Overcoming a Severe Eye Injury

During my college career, I suffered a severe eye injury. It was a scary experience, but I didn't let it stop me. I worked hard to recover and came back stronger than ever. It taught me the importance of perseverance and the power of a supportive team.



Possibility of Not Playing Again

It's a possibility, but I don't think about it. I just want to be able to go out and play.

New Appreciation for the Game

I appreciate the game more now. I know what it's like to be a player. I know what it's like to be a coach. I know what it's like to be a manager. I know what it's like to be a player-manager.

Different Approach

I'm going to be a different player. I'm going to be a different coach. I'm going to be a different manager. I'm going to be a different player-manager.

Goals this Season

I want to be a better player. I want to be a better coach. I want to be a better manager. I want to be a better player-manager.

Passing on to Younger Players

I want to be a better player. I want to be a better coach. I want to be a better manager. I want to be a better player-manager.

Things that People Don't Know

I want to be a better player. I want to be a better coach. I want to be a better manager. I want to be a better player-manager.

Life After Softball

I want to be a better player. I want to be a better coach. I want to be a better manager. I want to be a better player-manager.

Favorite Tradition

I want to be a better player. I want to be a better coach. I want to be a better manager. I want to be a better player-manager.

coach jo EVANS



First of all, I never worry about where we are going to get hot in April. I do think we have to be better than anyone. It's just a matter of us being able to put up with the hitters like Missouri and Oklahoma. It's not only feel like we are a better team than we were last year, we should certainly finish higher than sixth place.

Don't Turn Your Back

If your team is ranked first and doing really well, you never talk about rankings. The only time you talk about rankings is before player introductions. I don't want to talk about rankings. So I think as long as I stay consistent, if we aren't projected to do well, our kids don't know it.

It's a really nice job so far, giving us a chance to be a better team. We've shown the potential to be a better hitting team than we've been in the past. We have to be more consistent. We have some good players. It's a matter of our young players. They have any idea of how much they can do.

Becca Arnold

Becca Arnold is a really good pitcher. Meagan May, our freshman pitcher, you've recruited good kids, but you've got to be consistent. She has handled it. You have done a nice job setting up the team. I'm pleased with our team chemistry. We are a completely different team.

Going into Conference

I'm not going to put all three components together. I think our offense is great, but maybe our defense is not. I think the focus on consistency is important. How are they going to respond? If we don't, then we will be in a struggle for us.



Ace in the hole

Sophomore John Stilson took the mound
Texas A&M's go-to guy out of the bullpen

BY BRIAN DAVIS '04



"I'll do whatever the team needs me to do. If they need me to come in during the 3rd inning and throw long relief, I'll do it. Just don't expect me to come out."

JOHN STILSON

When John Stilson was a boy throwing a tennis ball off a brick wall at his grandmother's house, he never imagined he would be pitching for Texas A&M one day. In fact, he didn't think he'd be pitching at all.

Stilson grew up in Hooks, TX before moving to Texarkana, TX at age 12. At Texas High School, Stilson was a three-sport standout, lettering for two years in basketball and three years in football as a wide receiver. Baseball, however, was where his athletic ability shined the brightest. A shortstop with a great glove, Stilson was all-district and all-area in each of his three years on the team.

During his senior year, Stilson injured his non-throwing shoulder playing football, undoubtedly affecting the attention he received from college baseball coaches. However, he still shined in the classroom, earning Academic All-American honors in football and graduating summa cum laude and in the top 10 percent of his class. But when it was all said and done, he had only one scholarship offer to play baseball at Texarkana College (TC).

After undergoing shoulder surgery that summer and recovering in the fall, Stilson began his college baseball career for TC. He was playing shortstop – the same position he had always played – but that was about to change.

"They asked me to start a weekend game because one of our pitchers got in trouble," Stilson recalls, "and I threw a 1-hit shutout. I started pitching regularly after that."

Almost instantly, Stilson became the ace of the Bulldogs' pitching staff, earning all-conference and All-American honors along the way. He tied the school record for victories, finishing 12-1, with an earned run average of 2.44 and 78 strikeouts. When he first started pitching for TC, his fastball was clocked around 89 miles per hour. By the end of the season, he had worked it up to 97. Not bad for a guy who had never really pitched before.

"I have always just messed around pitching ever since I was little and throwing the tennis ball off the wall at my grandmother's house," Stilson said. "I'd throw it like I was pitching, field it like I was a shortstop, and throw it back like I was getting the out at first base. And I've always messed around to see if I could make a ball move this way or that way. That's how I learned all my pitches. I was never taught anything."

After his stellar freshman season at TC, Stilson was widely regarded as the nation's top junior college pitching prospect. This time around, he had scholarship offers from all over. And he had an

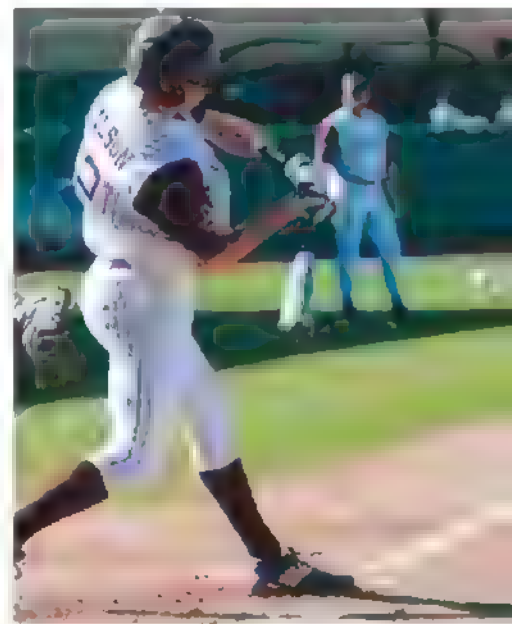
opportunity to begin his professional career when the Minnesota Twins selected him in the 19th round of the 2009 Major League Baseball draft.

"They gave me a great opportunity," he admits, "but after visiting Texas A&M, I knew I wanted to be here. It's just an awesome place with great traditions. I immediately fell in love with this place."

Not surprisingly, Stilson impressed coaches and teammates from the start of fall workouts. But his first real opportunity to shine in front of the Aggie faithful came in the third game of the season opening series against Seton Hall.

"My adrenaline was going insane," he said. "That was the main thing Coach Childress and I were worried about. I'm a pretty high-strung guy on the mound. We knew if I could settle down, that I would be just fine."

He was much better than fine. After entering a tied game in the 6th inning, Stilson threw four perfect innings of relief, as the Aggies downed Seton Hall,





6-3, to finish the series sweep. He earned the win in a phenomenal debut on the mound, retiring all 12 batters he faced in order, allowing just two balls out of the infield and striking out five.

"It was amazing," he said. "I couldn't have asked for anything else. I've been waiting on this opportunity for a long time and I'm just thankful I got the opportunity to do it."

"Stilson was just outstanding," Coach Childress said after the game. "It was over when he got in the game."

Stilson credits Coach Childress for his continued development on the mound.

"It's awesome playing for Coach Childress," Stilson said. "He knows exactly what he's talking about and will help you in any way possible. He has helped me tremendously. Everything I'm doing on the mound now is because of him. He has

taught me a lot."

After only a few appearances this season, Stilson's numbers are off the charts. He has raised his fastball up to 99 miles per hour, and he is hoping to throw it even faster.

"I like throwing the fastball," he admits, "because it is consistently 96 or 97 miles per hour, but my favorite pitch is the changeup. Especially when guys are spinning themselves around trying to hit it."

For now, the sophomore right-hander is the Aggies' closer and part-time shortstop. He may even fill in some in the outfield.

"I'll do whatever the team needs me to do," he said. "If they need me to come in during the 3rd inning and throw long relief, I'll do it. Just don't expect me to come out." ■

BIG 12 BASEBALL PREVIEW

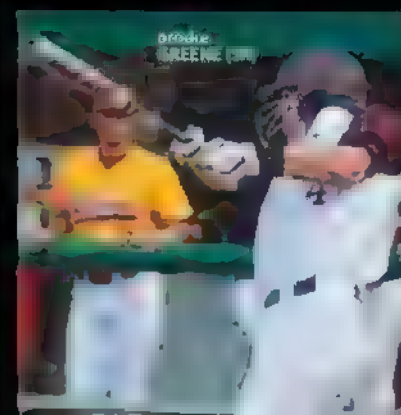
Who and what to watch for in the race for the 2010 conference crown

BY SCOTT CLENDENIN '89

Texas A&M, and the rest of the Big 12 teams other than Texas, were not expected to be among the elite of college baseball in 2010. However, heading into conference play, four teams besides the Longhorns found themselves ranked in the top 30 in the country as the league picked up right where it left off in 2009.

The Aggies have shown the best balance in the conference in hitting and pitching, but the defense is still a work in progress. While John Stilson has been the star of the pitching staff, Brodie Greene's senior season has been the key to the team. Last year, Blake Souffier, Kyle Colligan and Luke Anders had to recover after a slow start to their final season in Aggieland. Greene learned from his former teammates' struggles and hit the ground running this year. He has already been named the Big 12 Player of the Week and is the Ags' leading hitter. Once the players and coaches correct the errors in the field, this team will again compete for the Big 12 crown and the NCAA tournament hosting opportunities that come with finishing in the top of the league standings.

Here is a team by team look at the other schools in the Big 12:



BAYLOR BEARS



Baylor had big shoes to fill after losing the majority of a recruiting class that was rated the nation's best prior to arriving on campus. Several players who underachieved last year in the scouts' eyes must lead this team, and pitchers like Shawn Tolleson and Willie Kempf must pitch to their potential.

PLAYER TO WATCH: Raynor Campbell is having a huge senior season, a big bounce back from a junior season that saw him post career low numbers. He has moved from the bottom of the Bear order to the top to take advantage of his batting prowess.

WHAT NEEDS WORK: After a slow start, the Bears have picked up steam with the offense, but they are still struggling defensively. Three new defenders on the infield have to come together and cut down on the free baserunners.

KANSAS JAYHAWKS



Kansas entered the season with high expectations, the best returning player in the league and confidence after a solid season in 2009. Winning two of three from defending national champion LSU the week before conference play has them confident they can make a run to the league crown.

PLAYER TO WATCH: Iony Thompson led the Big 12 in hitting, homeruns and RBI last year, but he hasn't hit the field this year after fracturing his kneecap in preseason practice. Kansas withstood the absence, but when Thompson returns to form, their middle of the pack offense could explode.

WHAT NEEDS WORK: Without Thompson, the Jayhawk offense has not shown much power or speed. Most teams in the league can either bash the ball or steal bases, but Kansas is last in the league in both.

KANSAS ST. WILDCATS



Kansas State was the biggest surprise in the Big 12 last year, and most thought the Wildcats would take a big step back after losing star players in the field and on the mound. Former Aggie assistant coach Andy Sawyers continues to force the issue with an aggressive offensive attack, making them the best at hitting as well as running the bases.

PLAYER TO WATCH: Carter Junka was a key player in their offense last year, but as a returning starter he has taken his game to another level. He is in the top five in hitting, RBI, triples, doubles and steals.

WHAT NEEDS WORK: The Wildcats lost the best pitcher in the conference last year, and while Kyle Hunter has been solid to start the season, the rest of the pitching staff still has more questions when the level of competition increases.

NEBRASKA CORNHUSKERS



Nebraska has been

WHAT NEEDS WORK

The program

OKLAHOMA SOONERS



PLAYER TO WATCH

the Red Sox

WHAT NEEDS WORK

among the

Texas returned the top pitching staff in the country, having spent a year and a half rebuilding. Many thought the questions surrounding the program would be answered by the loss of key upperclassmen from last year's national runner-up team.

PLAYER TO WATCH: Bryce Brown, a senior, has been named to the top two rounds out of high school based on his potential, and he has built on that to be one of the top pitchers in the country. Brown is a two-time All-American and a two-time Big 12 Player of the Year.

WHAT NEEDS WORK: The program has a deep pitching staff, but the offense is still struggling. Even the best pitching staff will need some offense to be successful.

TEXAS TECH RED RAIDERS



Texas Tech is rebuilding under Dan Spencer and after helping lead Oregon State to back-to-back National Championships, he has a great record. The Red Raiders were the second year team that their record indicates a start in 2010 could lead to an All-Star season out of the Big 12 tournament.

PLAYER TO WATCH: Chad Norris doesn't have a defined role, moving back and forth between the mound and the field. He is a two-time All-American and a two-time Big 12 Player of the Year.

WHAT NEEDS WORK: The program has a deep pitching staff, but the offense is still struggling. Even the best pitching staff will need some offense to be successful.

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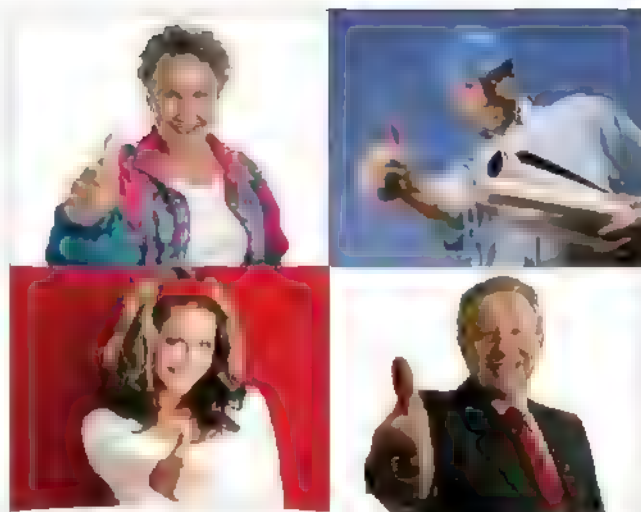
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VON MILLER (SR)

THINGS TO WATCH FOR DURING SPRING FOOTBALL PRACTICE

BY JEREMY KSIONDA '04

It's hard to believe spring football is already upon us. This spring marks the beginning of a new chapter in the Mike Sherman era. After another year of below average defense, Sherman brought in highly acclaimed defensive coordinator Tim DeRuyter from Air Force to resurrect the Wrecking Crew. While that might be priority number one this spring, it certainly isn't the only storyline worth following. Here are our top 10 things to look for as the Ags hit the practice fields this spring:

VON MILLER'S ENCORE

There probably isn't a more encouraging story this spring than Miller's return. After all, it isn't every day that A&M returns the nation's sack leader and a first team All American. Miller's senior leadership and intensity will undoubtedly be infectious to the rest of the young Aggie defenders.

COACH NGUYEN

If Miller's return is the most encouraging storyline, the return of Dai Nguyen has to be the most exciting. After a stint as an assistant coach for the Dallas Cowboys, Nguyen was hired by DeRuyter to be the new inside linebackers coach – the same spot where he earned All American accolades as a player.

THE 3-4 SHUFFLE

With DeRuyter comes a new defensive scheme, and most Aggie fans will be excited to see the return of the 3-4 front. The scheme that made RC Slocum so successful should allow the Ags to put more speed on the field. Several players should find a new lease on life with a different front, including defensive tackles Rod Davis and Adrien Dorsey.

FRESH FACES

A trio of freshman quarterbacks and a highly touted offensive lineman are ready to make their mark in spring drills. Freshman tackle Luke Joeckel was one of the most highly rated members of the class of 2010. If he's anywhere near as good as advertised, he'll probably be in the starting unit by the end of spring drills. Matt Joeckel (Luke's twin brother), Clay Honeycutt and Jameil Showers will fight to prove themselves as a worthy backup to Jerrod Johnson so that Kyan Tannehill can see more time at wide receiver.

WHAT TO DO WITH TANNEHILL

After spending limited time at wideout at the beginning of the year, an injury to Jeff Fuller pushed Tannehill into more playing time, where he continued to put his athleticism on display. While he might still be the best backup quarterback on campus, Tannehill has clearly proven himself as a weapon at receiver. Will any of the freshman quarterbacks allow Tannehill to see more playing time or will he continue to be protected?

REPLACING SENIORS

Though they were few in number, the departing seniors will be tough to replace. Lee Grimes, Michael Shumard and Kevin Matthews became staples on the offensive line, and after a rocky start, emerged as one of the Big 12's best units toward the end of the season. That type of chemistry will be tough to replace, and there's not much experience returning to replace them. Defensively ends Matt Moss and Matt Featherston leave a void as Von Miller's pass rushing compliments, and safety Jordan Pugh was the team leader in interceptions.

PHYSICAL TRANSFORMATION

Strength coach Dave Kennedy arrived at the same time as Sherman, and while his impact may have been obvious with some players right away, there's a buzz surrounding the program that says the effects are beginning to show across the board. We know, we know – people say this every year, but this time we really think there's some truth behind it.

SPECIAL TEAMS

Coach Kirk Joll wasn't retained at season's end, and while there isn't a new special teams coach to introduce, we think it's still worth keeping a close eye on the all important area this spring. Sherman has indicated that a conscious effort will be put on special teams by all, which has to come as good news.

KRAGTHORPE'S RETURN

Former Louisville head coach Steve Kragthorpe finds himself back in Aggieland after an unsuccessful stint in Kentucky. We're thrilled with the hire, as Coach Krag's misfortune of walking into Petrino's mess ultimately proved to be A&M's gain. Kragthorpe's tutelage of the wide receivers and influence on offense should turn out to be a win-win scenario for the Ags.

DERUYTER IN ACTION

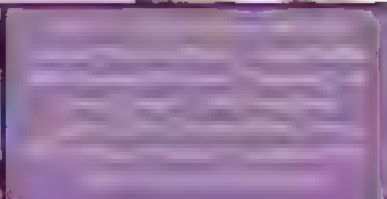
We know we mentioned it, but it's worth saying again. If DeRuyter can lead the Air Force Falcons to the 11th ranked defense in the country, then surely he's capable of resurrecting the sleeping giant in Aggieland. It's been too long since the stands of Kyle Field have chanted "Wrecking Crew." Hopefully, this spring marks step one toward the Crew's triumphant return. **BT**

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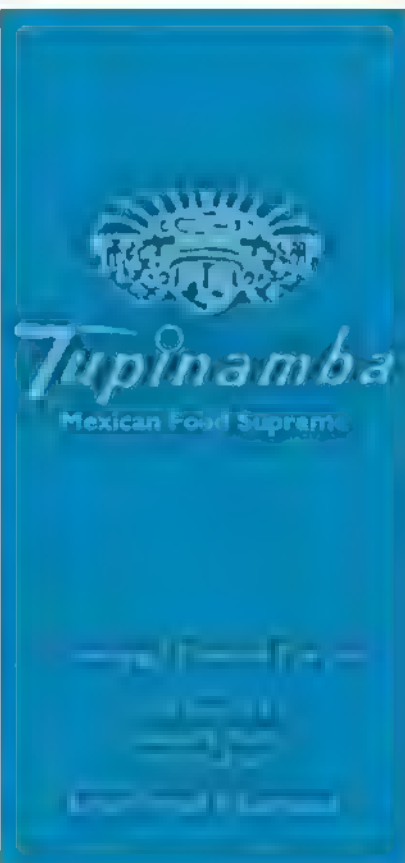
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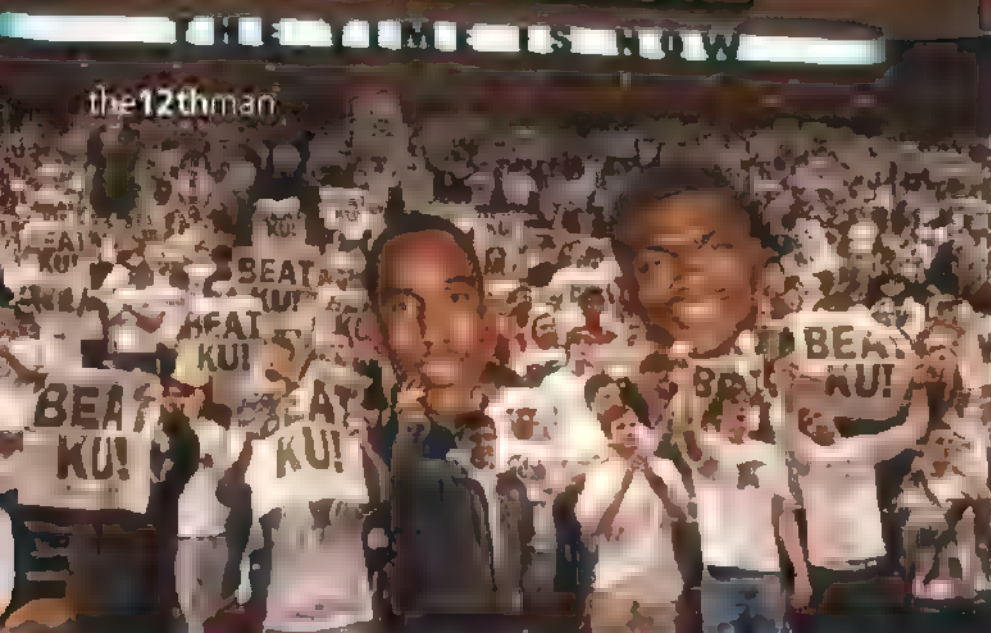
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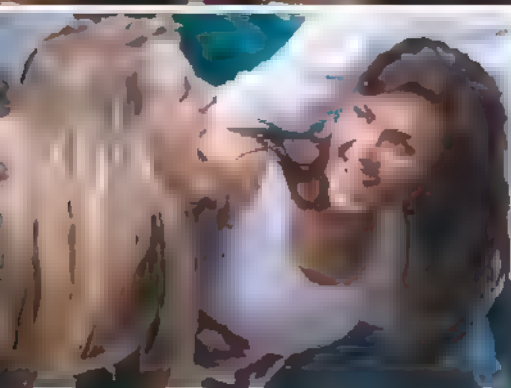
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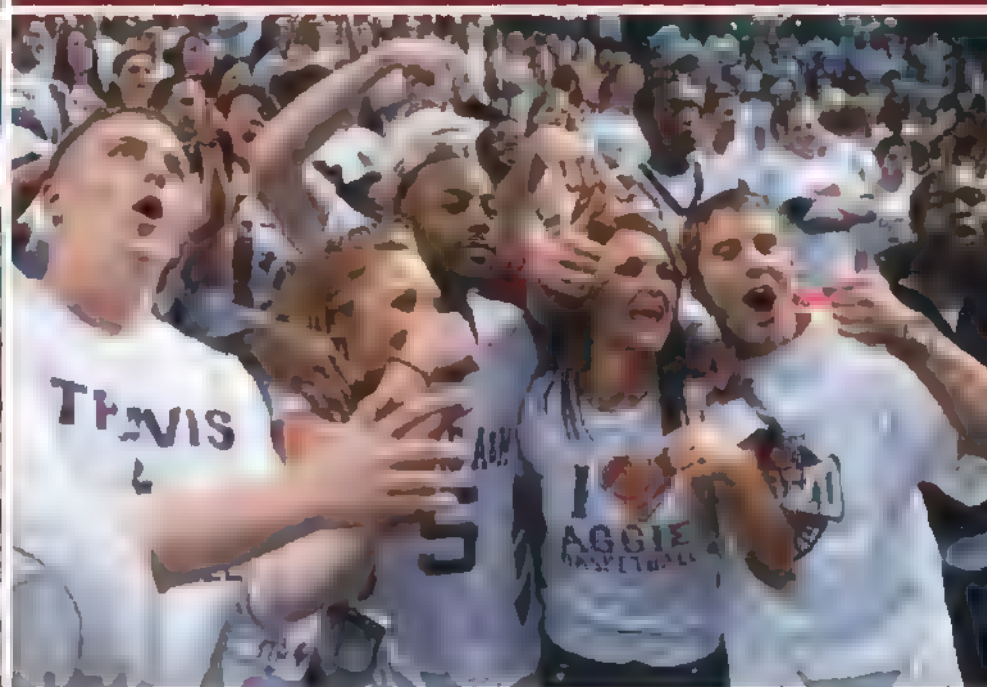


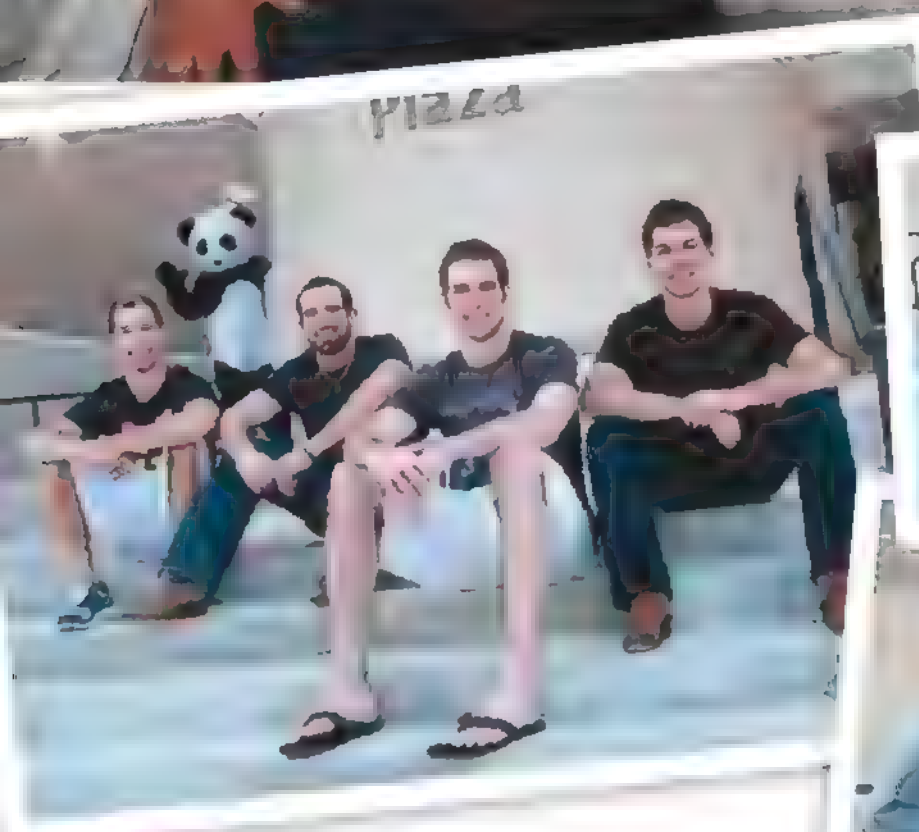


the 12th man



(above left and bottom right) The 12th Man set the single game record at Reed Arena three times this season. (above right) The Aggie Dance Team performs during halftime of the women's game against Kansas State. (left) For the fourth-straight season, Aggie fans were decked out in pink T-shirts for the Aggies' BTHO Breast Cancer game. (bottom left) On Senior Night, fans paid tribute to Colby Kilman, who has accepted a job with the City of College Station after over 20 remarkable years as sports information director for men's basketball.





Fourteen questions for the Dude Perfect guys
and their newest member – the panda

BY GENTRY "SCOOP" WOODARD

Tyler II started [redacted] actually, [redacted]
[redacted] we will [redacted]
[redacted] shot him [redacted]
the [redacted] [redacted] and we [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

[illegible]

Cory have to ad
I'll
pe if them
The ed sh
of a amp
thing
partner

Cory It was rea / Cobv and wen
 I N... I our fa
 I, Eried vi... ne for f
 We I... vide
 I... get better at
 I... happer
 I... when A
 ed... DRC... mes...

Tyler W...
seen a panda costume and thought
that would be a good idea. I bought one from
up and la...
though considering that it's difficult to find a
laughing goat costume. So we went online and
found out that a panda was not overly used.
I had a good balance of cute and you could
do things with it. So we...
the costume from China. Every year...
a mascot.

[illegible]

Tyler The panda got a standing ovation at the last home game.

Tyler [redacted] have to be B. He [redacted] the cause he's been there from the bed [redacted] [redacted] field shot. He had to leave for cla [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] work no on 1 and we have video of him [redacted] printing off to class because he waited until the last possible second. Then he left class early to come back.



Cory Probably it was a fun experience.

Tyler won game five 7-6 in the 10th inning.

Tyler He lives with us in College Station. He

My favorite food is Panda Express, natural, for
the one here and here and here and here and
dinner and lunch.

Cory The panda does not talk. Well, he talk

Tyler And we can... information

Does the panda have a girlfriend?

Cory Right now, he [Cody] is [redacted]
Cody I don't think [redacted] [redacted]
 [redacted] the celebrity [redacted]

Cory: The sky's the limit for the panda. He's

Is the panda on Facebook or does he tweet?

Cory Yes, the panda did recently get a book page (Panda Jude Perfect). He did not get a letter page yet, but he will be getting one soon.

Does the panda have any special skills or talents?

Cory The panda is actually incredibly talented. He is a great drummer. He can longboard.

Tyler He is talented at everything he does. He is a

Cody capt. [redacted] are [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]

Copy _____

Cody

Does the panda have any weaknesses?
Tyler: As a defender, it is popcorn. That's his key

Cody TELONG, a 20-year-old, 5'5" tall, and he weighed

11. The capture of G. p. was 3.1%

Will the panda be attempting any trick shots in future Dude Perfect videos?

Tyler We plan to have the census more often

Cody





unlikely destination

Anyone who has ever spent time with Charlie Lima '04 would know that he is a driven and passionate person. It's rare to find someone who genuinely loves their job, but for Charlie, his job has become his life.

Being the founder and owner of Train With Charlie, Charlie admits that he never thought he would ever be a personal trainer. But, he says "everything happens for a reason," and credits God for the path his life has taken.

As a kid, Charlie was overweight, and he lived up to the label of "chubby" that his family and friends had given him.

"I had horrible eating habits until I was

about 18," he said.

Until then, his life had consisted of fast-food and soda.

"I thought that a restaurant was good if it had free soda refills," he adds.

And even though he had grown up playing football and loved the sport, he hated the exercise it required.

At the end of his senior year at Cypress Creek HS, and with a college decision looming around the corner, Charlie had every intention of going to the University of Texas in Austin.

"I didn't know much about Texas A&M at the time," he admits. "I wasn't one of the ones who grew up going to games at

"Going to A&M was the biggest blessing and the best decision I think I've ever made in my entire life. God put me here for a reason."

CHARLIE LIMA

Kyle Field. I just planned to go to Texas."

Although Charlie intended to lead a healthier lifestyle going into college, it wasn't until he had received his acceptance letter to Texas that he really began to make a change.

"I probably ran three or four miles that day just off endorphins," he recalls. "I was so excited to get into Texas."

However, after a short trip with some friends to College Station for a concert, Charlie began giving Texas A&M a second thought.

"I came into town on another visit and stayed with some friends that went to A&M," he said. "I realized that College Station wasn't so bad."

It was May of his senior year when Charlie changed his mind and decided to go to A&M.

"I told my dad and he was a little in shock," Charlie admits. "We had already committed to a dorm at Texas and I had a roommate set up. I had everything in line to go to Austin."

"Turns out," Charlie adds, "going to A&M was the biggest blessing and the best decision I think I've ever made in my entire life. God put me here for a reason."

While at A&M, Charlie had nothing short of a unique college experience.

"Because I was so late in my decision to come to A&M, I was moved into Hart Hall, which, at the time, was the only remaining dorm without air-conditioning," he said. "But it was worth it – even during a College Station summer."

Charlie ran for yell leader twice during his time at A&M, which is a difficult task for anyone who is not in the Corps of Cadets.

"I discovered that running for yell was a lot like owning a business," he said. "There's a lot of marketing and work that goes into the campaign."

The summer after his sophomore year, Charlie began working various jobs around Aggieland. He mowed lawns and bussed tables at Wings-N-More, hoping

to work his way up to waiter. He was also spending a lot of time at NutriTec – a supplement store in College Station – where he met personal trainer Cliff Latham, who trained clients in the back of the store.

"I was in there one time and I don't think he knew my name, but he recognized my face," Charlie recalls. "He said to me, 'I'm about to buy the store and I need people to run it. You look like a good guy. Do you want to work for me? I'll pay you \$8 an hour.' That was more than I was making at Wings-N-More, so it was an easy decision."

Charlie began working the front counter and often visited with Latham's clients before and after their sessions. One client – Mary Mike Hatcher – told Latham that if he ever wanted to grow his business, she thought Charlie would make a good personal trainer.

"He gave me an opportunity to be a personal trainer and it just came natural to me," Charlie said. "It just grew from there."


Shortly after college, Charlie began working as an independent trainer at Aggieland Fitness Dome.

"During my campaign for yell leader, I had heard that red was a 'power color,'" he recalled. "So I started wearing a red shirt anytime I would train clients just so that I would stand out. Not too long after I began doing that, I had people asking around, wanting to train with 'the guy in the red shirt.'"

It worked so well that he made red the official color of Train With Charlie. But, it has always been Charlie's devotion that has set his business apart.

"I trained all the time," he said. "I think it's because I took it so seriously that I have a successful business today."

Soon, Charlie had so many clients that he needed to hire another trainer. Business continued to grow leading Charlie and his trainers to move out of Aggieland Fitness Dome and into his own location that he acquired from friends and owners of Expression's Dance Studio.

Train With Charlie opened its doors in August 2008. Since then, Charlie has developed a successful business, facilitated healthy living and has achieved his dreams. He also recently opened a second location called College Station CrossFit. For Charlie, what started as a simple hobby, became his life. 

YOU CAN BE FIT – 7 EASY STRATEGIES FOR TAKING BACK YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW

By Charlie Lima. ©2008

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Aggies everywhere were elated in mid February when Mike Sherman announced three new members of his coaching staff. And while Steve Kragthorpe and Nick Toth appear to be outstanding hires, neither can compete with the buzz around former Texas A&M All-American Dat Nguyen as the new inside linebackers coach. Eager to prove his value not only as a teacher of the game, Nguyen quickly hit the ground running on the recruiting trail.



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